For the Examiner's convenience, attached herewith are two versions of the pending claims, one version titled "**Clean Version**" and one version titled "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**".

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1, 8, and 17 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the February 12, 2003 Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-21. The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al., USP 6,434,618 (Cohen), in view of Ramaswamy et al., USP 6,424,621 (Ramaswamy). Claims 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen, in view of Ramaswamy, and further in view of Beighe et al., USP 5,742,607 (Beighe). Claims 8-16 were rejected under the same rationale as claims 1-7. Claims 17-21 were rejected under the same rationale as claims 1-7. In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections.

As previously described, the embodiments of the present invention relates to a computer system that allows proprietary forwarding elements to interoperate with standard control elements in an open network architecture. The computer system includes forwarding elements that is adapted to perform data forwarding functions in a computer network. A control element is adapted to perform network signaling and control functions in the computer network. The control element is adapted to generate a uniform standardized data set for configuring the forwarding element. An

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interconnecting element operatively connects the forwarding element to the control element. A forwarding element plugin is integrated with the control element for receiving the uniform standardized data set from the control element, translating the uniform standardized data set into a proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element, and transmitting the proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element to configure the forwarding element. The forwarding element utilizes the proprietary specialized data set to configure the forwarding element for performing data forwarding in the computer network.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites:

a forwarding element adapted to perform data forwarding in a computer network;
a control element adapted to perform network signaling and control in the computer network;
an interconnecting element operatively connecting the forwarding element to the control element; and
a forwarding element plugin integrated with the control element for receiving the uniform standardized data set from the control element, **translating the uniform standardized data set into a proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element**, and transmitting the proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element to configure the forwarding element, wherein the forwarding element utilizes the proprietary specialized data set to configure the forwarding element for performing data forwarding in the computer network to **facilitate integration of uniform standardized data set with proprietary specialized data set.**

Accordingly, various embodiments of the present invention facilitates building of a computer system having forwarding elements based on standardized data sets and proprietary specialized data sets. Independent claims 8 and 17 recite similar elements.

In contrast, as previously described, in general, Cohen is directed towards a mechanism for uploading programs into a programmable gateway either locally or over a network. (See col. 3, lines 35-40 and col. 4, lines 1-6) Further, Cohen discloses that

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"the network element operates on standardized IP packet traffic that does not have to be modified to enable the functionalities of the network element to be involved". (See col. 2, lines 16-19) Accordingly, unlike the independent claim 1, as amended, Cohen makes no mention of a forwarding element plugin integrated with the control element for receiving the uniform standardized data set from the control element, translating the uniform standardized data set into a proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element, and transmitting the proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element to configure the forwarding element.

Thus, Cohen does not disclose, teach, or suggest the computer system of independent claim 1, as amended.

Ramaswamy does not cure the deficiencies of Cohen. As previously described, in general, Ramaswamy is directed towards "a general purpose multiprocessor or computer system adapted to provide message routing and load balancing functions for a computer system network". (See col. 4 lines 37-42) Accordingly, Ramaswamy discloses various load balancing methods. (See col. 6, lines 25-48, and col. 7 lines 1-24) Thus, Ramaswamy does not disclose, teach, or suggest a forwarding element plugin integrated with the control element for receiving the uniform standardized data set from the control element, translating the uniform standardized data set into a proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element, and transmitting the proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element to configure the forwarding element as claimed in claim 1.

Because Cohen discloses loading of programs, while Ramaswamy discloses a general purpose multiprocessor or computer system adapted to provide message

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routing and load balancing functions, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no suggestion or motivation to modify either of the references or to combine the references. Additionally, Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that for a prima facie case of obviousness, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested.

Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the elements of claim 1 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by Cohen, in view of Ramaswamy. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Cohen, in view of Ramaswamy. Further, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 8, and 17 are also patentable over Cohen, in view of Ramaswamy.

Beighe does not cure the deficiencies of Cohen, in view of Ramaswamy. As previously described, in general, Beighe is directed toward a method and apparatus for controlling two way communication via disparate physical media. (See Abstract) Unlike independent claim 1, as amended, Beighe does not make any mention of a control element adapted to perform network signaling and control in the computer network, wherein the control element is adapted to generate a uniform standardized data set for configuring the forwarding element and is external to the forwarding element, and a forwarding element plugin integrated with the control element for receiving the uniform standardized data set from the control element, translating the uniform standardized data set into a proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element, and translating the proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element to configure the forwarding element.

Thus, claims 4-5, which depend from claim 1, are patentable over Cohen, in view of Ramaswamy, and in further view of Beighe.

Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 4-5, 8, and 17, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 4-5, 8, and 17 are patentable over the cited references. Further, claims 2-3 and 6-7 depend from claim 1, and based at least upon their dependency, claims 2-3 and 6-7 are patentable over the cited references. Claims 9-16 depend from claim 8, and based at least upon their dependency, claims 9-16 are patentable over the cited references. Claims 18-21 depend from claim 17, and based at least upon their dependency, claims 18-21 are patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully submits that all claims 1-21 in the application are now in condition for allowance. Early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Please note for the record, effective immediately, the attorney docket number has been changed to **P7777**.
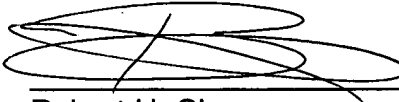
Change of Correspondence Address:

Please find attached herewith, a change of address notice for correspondence.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500221. A Fee Transmittal is enclosed in duplicate for fee processing purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

INTEL CORPORATION

Dated: _August 11_, 2003

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 8, and 17 as follows:

1.   (Twice Amended) A computer system comprising:

a forwarding element adapted to perform data forwarding in a computer network;

a control element adapted to perform network signaling and control in the computer network, ~~wherein the control element is adapted to generate a uniform standardized data set for configuring the forwarding element and is external to the forwarding element~~;

an interconnecting element operatively connecting the forwarding element to the control element; and

a forwarding element plugin integrated with the control element for receiving the uniform standardized data set from the control element, translating the uniform standardized data set into a proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element, and transmitting the proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element to configure the forwarding element, wherein the forwarding element utilizes the proprietary specialized data set to configure the forwarding element for performing data forwarding in the computer network <u>to facilitate integration of uniform standardized data set with proprietary specialized data set</u>.

8.   (Twice Amended) A method for configuring a computer device, the method comprising:

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generating a uniform standardized data set by a control element for configuring a

forwarding element, ~~wherein the control element is external to the forwarding element~~;

transmitting the uniform standardized data set from the control element to a

forwarding element plugin integrated with the control element;

translating the uniform standardized data set into a proprietary specialized data

set to the forwarding element; and

transmitting the proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element for

configuring the forwarding element <u>to facilitate integration of uniform standardized data</u>

<u>set with proprietary specialized data set</u>.

17.   (Twice Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing

instructions when executed by a processor, the instructions <u>perform</u>,

receiving a uniform standardized data set for configuring the forwarding

element generated by the control element, ~~wherein the control element is~~

~~external to the forwarding element~~,

translating the uniform standardized data set into a proprietary specialized

data set to the forwarding element, and

transmitting the proprietary specialized data set to the forwarding element

for configuring the forwarding element <u>to facilitate integration of uniform</u>

<u>standardized data set with proprietary specialized data set</u>.